PRECEPTS
FOR
Christian Practice:
OR,
The Rule of the New *CREATURE:*

Containing Duties to bee dayly observed by every Beleever.

The sixt Edition, Corrected, Inlarged, and now Published according to Order.

Gal. 6. 16. *As many as walk according to this rule, Peace be on them and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.*

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BIBLIOTECA BODLEIANA

The heads of the ten Duties.

The first Duty.

Bee alwayes ſenſible of thy originall corruption, and conſider how it inclineth thee continually to all evill and indiſpoſeth thee to any good, groane under it, and bewaile it; Alſo take ſpeciall notice of your actuall ſinnes or daily infirmities, in thought word and deed; and indeavour to make your peace with God before you goe to bed.

The ſecond Dutie.

Get your union with Chriſt, and your intereſt in him, cleared and confirmed to you dayly more and more, that you are a branch in his vine, and a member in his body.

The third Duty.

Labour to draw and derive from Chriſt by the powerfull attractive force of faith, ſpirituall abilities ſufficient for the day.

The fourth Dutie.

Perform all Duties, both in Family and Cloſet, eſpecially theſe three, of prayer, meditation and reading, and doe them with ſincere attention, with heat of affection, and with diligence and delight.

The fifth Dutie.

Fortifie your ſelves every morning againſt your ſpeciall luſts, to

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which by nature you are moſt prone, or ſhall be moſt tempted, be it pride, paſſion, covetouſneſſe, or the like.

The ſixth Dutie.

Get your hearts ſtrongly fixed on God by truſting in him, and ſubmitting to him, againſt all feares, cares, doubts tryals and afflictions of every day; for ſufficient to the day is the evill thereof.

The ſeventh Dutie.

Get and keep continually a ſavory reliſh of your Chriſtian priviledges, wherewith you are inveſted as you are new creatures in Chriſt.

The eighth Dutie.

Sanctifie the Lord in your hearts daily, make him your feare, your love and delight.

The ninth Dutie.

Get a publike ſpirit, firſt to minde

the things of Jesus Christ as naturally as if they were your owne; secondly, to looke on the things of others, and to prefer Jerusalems welfare *before* your chiefest joy, *and the* Gospels liberty *before your owne, and to mourne for the sinnes of the times as the Godly in* Jerusalem *did.*

The tenth Duty.

Get your hearts daily weaned from the world, and from those creatures and comforts in it which are deareſt and sweeteſt to you, as wife, children, friends, goods, liberties, house, and life, &c.

PRE-

Precepts for Christian Practise, or the Rule of the New Creature, to be daily observed by every beleever, in the practise of these ten following Duties.

The first Dutie.

Be alwayes sensible of thy originall corruption, and consider how it inclineth thee continually to all evill, and indisposeth thee to any good; groan under it and bewaile it as Paul did, Rom. 7. 27. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death! *Also take speciall notice of your actuall sinnes, or daily infirmities in thought, word, and deed; endeavour to make your peace with God before you goe to bed.*

Which must bee done these foure wayes.

1 BY repenting and confessing your sinnes to God; working your hearts to griefe and sorrow for them by some such melting considerations as these.

theſe. 1. Of the goodneſſe of God to you. 2. Of the unreaſonableneſſe and every way unprofitableneſſe of ſinne; and 3. Of the great damage, prejudice, and hurt that commeth to the ſoule by ſinne.

2. By beleeving and caſting your ſelfe wholly on Chriſts righteouſneſſe for remiſſion of ſinne, and for reconciliation with God, *Rom.* 3. 22, 23, 24, 25. 22. *Even the righteouſneſſe of God, which is by faith of Ieſus Chriſt unto all, and upon all them that beleeve: for there is no difference.* 23. *For all have ſinned and come ſhort of the glory of God.* 24. *Being juſtified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Ieſus Chriſt.* 25 *Whom God hath ſet forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteouſneſſe for the remiſſion of ſinnes that are paſt through the forbearance of God.*

3. By cleaving to Gods promiſe of pardon and peace, as *Eſay* 43. 25. 1, *even I am he that blotteth out thy tranſgreſſions for mine owne ſake, and will not remember thy ſinnes.* Rom. 5. 1. *Therefore being juſtified by faith, wee have peace with God through our Lord Ieſus Chriſt.*

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4. By waiting till the Lord ſhall ſpeak unto you. *Pſal.* 85. 8. *I will heare what the Lord will ſpeake, for he will ſpeake peace unto his people, and to his Saints: but let them not turne again to folly.*

The ſecond Duty.

Get your union with Chriſt and your intereſt in him cleared and confirmed to you daily more and more, that you are a branch in his vine, and a member in his body.

This is done three waies.

FIrſt, by dayly renewall of your faith in Chriſt, eſpecially of that act of faith whereby the ſoule knitteth or tyeth it ſelfe unto Chriſt; caſts and roules it ſelfe on Chriſt for ſalvation. Cauſe your hearts in a ſolemne manner every day to act this part, or to put forth this primitive act of faith in the view of the whole Soule: The daily exerciſe hereof will increaſe and ſtrengthen the divine habit of faith in your Soule; and make your Soule ſenſible of the very act of it: By frequent beleeving you ſhall feele at your very heart that

that you doe beleeve, ſo ſhall you have in your ſelfe a witneſſe that you are in Chriſt, 1 John 5. 10. *He that beleeveth in the Sonne of God hath the witneſſe in himſelfe, &c.*

Secondly, by examining your heart upon what grounds you tooke Chriſt to be yours: The grounds are theſe five. 1. A ſight and ſenſe of your ſinnes, as of the guilt, power, and puniſhment of them, and of your miſery by them. Matth. 11. 28. *Come unto me all yee that labour and be heavy laden, and I will give you reſt.*

2. Your want of Chriſt ſeene, and felt at your very heart, to juſtifie, ſanctifie, redeeme, and ſave you, elſe you are utterly loſt, and undone everlaſtingly, *Luke* 19. 10. *For the Sonne of man is come to ſeeke and to ſave that which was loſt.*

3. Gods free and generall offer of Chriſt to any that will take him by faith, John 3. 16. *For God ſo loved the world that he gave his only begotten Sonne, that whoſoever beleeves in him ſhould not periſh, but have everlaſting life.* There are manifold promiſes to that purpoſe, and the Grounds of all Gods offers and dona-

donations of Chriſt to the poore ſoule are free grace, rich mercy, undeſerved love, Epheſ. 2. 4, 5, 6, 7. *But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us*; 5. *Even when wee were dead in ſinnes, hath quickned us together with Chriſt (by grace yee are ſaved.)* 6. *And hath raiſed us up together, and made us ſit together in heavenly places in Chriſt Ieſus*; 7 *That in the ages to come he might ſhew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindneſſe towards us.* Titus 3. 4, 5, 6. *But after that the kindneſſe and love of God our Saviour towards man appeared*; 5 *Not by workes of righteouſneſſe which we have done, but according to his mercy he ſaved us by the waſhing of regeneration, and renewing of the holy Ghoſt.* 6 *Which he ſhed on us abundantly through Ieſus Chriſt our Saviour.*

4. Chriſts ſweet and gracious invitation of ſuch to come to him as are weary of ſinne, and that have neither worth in themſelves nor money to buy, Matth. 11. 28. *Come unto me all yee that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you reſt.* Eſay. 55. 1. *Hoe, every one that thirſteth come to the waters, and he that hath no money, come yee, buy and eate,*

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yea come, buy wine and milke without money and without price. 5. As sinfull vile wretches as you are have been sought of Christ and found in Christ, 1 *Cor.* 6. 10, 11. *Nor theeves, nor covetous, nor Drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdome of God.* 11 *Such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Iesus, and by the spirit of our God.* 1 *Tim.* 1. 13. *Paul* was a *blasphemer, persecutor*, and yet obtained *mercy*. Therefore why may not you? Thus the more clearely you discerne on what grounds you take Christ, the clearer will your title to Christ be evidenced to your owne soule.

3. By surveying and observing in what manner you take Christ daily, which is,

1. Whether you doe wholly renounce all opinion and conceite of your owne righteousnesse and desert, *Mark.* 8. 34. *Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himselfe, and take up his crosse and follow mee.* Phil. 3. 7, 8, 9. *But what things were gain to me, those I counted losse for Christ.* 8. *Yea doubtlesse, and I count all things but losse for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Iesus my Lord:*

Lord: for whom I have ſuffered the loſſe of all things, and doe count them but dung that I may winne Chriſt. 9. And be found in him not having my owne righteouſneſſe which is of the Law, but that which is through the faith of Chriſt, the righteouſneſſe which is of God by faith. Thus you come to Chriſt empty of your ſelfe, yea very vile and nothing in your owne eyes, unworthy to receive him.

2. Whether you lay hold on Chriſt with an empty hand of faith joining nothing at all with Chriſt in the matter of ſalvation, as the holy Martyr at the ſtake cryed out, *None but Chriſt, none but Chriſt.*

3. Whether you finde the Father drawing your hearts after Chriſt, John 6. 44. *No man can come unto mee except the Father which hath ſent mee, draw him, and I will raiſe him up at the laſt day*: Which is in hungring and panting deſires that will never bee ſatisfied without him; ſo that both the ſtreame of your judgement, and affections runne after him, as 1 *Cor.* 2. ver. 2. *For I determine to know nothing among you but Ieſus Chriſt and him crucified*, Gal. 6. 14. *But God forbid I ſhould glory*

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save in the crosse of our Lord Iesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

4. Whether you take Christ as well for a Lord to rule you, as a Jesus to save you. Col. 2. 6. *As yee therefore have received Christ Iesus the Lord, so walke yee in him*: As one that is *all in all to you, your wisdome, your righteousnesse, your sanctification and redemption,* 1 Cor. 1. 30. Your spirituall food, John 6. 48. *I am that bread of life,* Vers. 55. *For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drinke indeed.* Your rayment, Rom. 13. 14. *But put yee on the Lord Iesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.* Your strength, Phil. 4. 13. *I can doe all things through Christ which strengtheneth mee.* Your life, Gal. 2. 20. *I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Sonne of God, who loved me and gave himselfe for me,* Col. 3. 3. *For yee are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

5. Whether you seek and waite for Christ (out of the sense of your spirituall want and penury) in every or-

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dinance publique and private, Word, Sacraments, Prayer, Meditation and conference, not as they are your owne workes of ſanctification, but as they are Gods Ordinances appointed on purpoſe, for the manifeſtation and communication of Chriſt to the Soule. Frequent peruſall hereof will cleare to you your manner of taking Chriſt, and that will evidence to you your right and title which you have in Chriſt Jeſus.

The third Duty.

Labour to draw and derive from Chriſt by the powerfull attractive force of faith, ſpirituall ability ſufficient for the day.

FIrſt, to performe all your duties, *Phil.* 4. 13. *I can doe all things through Chriſt which ſtrengtheth me.*

Secondly, to exerciſe all your graces, 2 *Cor.* 3. 5. *Not that we are ſufficient of our ſelves to think any thing as of our ſelves: but our ſufficiency is of God.*

Thirdly, to reſiſt and overcome all your corruptions and temptations,

Rom. 8. 37. *In all these things we are more then conquerers through him that loved us.*

Fourthly, to undergoe all your tryalls and afflictions, John 1. 16. *And of his fulnesse have wee all received, and grace for grace.*

Make your provision of strength and grace from Christ, every morning fetch from him so much as you shall have occasion to use all the day long, yea and upon all occasions that fall out in the day, goe to Christ still for the wisedome that must direct you, for the holinesse that must Character you, for the shoulder that must beare your crosses, for the strength that must resist your temptations, and for ability to performe all duties as duties.

To this end act your faith daily in the promises of grace and strength, as John 1. 16. *Of his fulnesse have we all received, and grace for grace*, Esay 44. 3. *I will poure water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will poure my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine off-spring*, Ezekiel 36. 26, 27. *A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your*

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fleſh, and I will give you an heart of fleſh. 27. *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cauſe you to walke in my ſtatutes, and ye ſhall keepe my judgements and doe them,* Zach. 10. 12. *And I will ſtrengthen them in the Lord, and they ſhall walke up and downe in his name, ſaith the Lord.* Theſe and the like promiſes are ſecurity given you by God, That you ſhall receive grace in the uſe of the ordinances, which are as the Conduit pipes or inſtruments of conveying the ſame from Chriſt to you.

This is the way and means to doe all in the ſtrength of Chriſt, and to take forth a great deale of Chriſt into your ſoules, *that not you but Chriſt may live in you,* Gal. 2. 20. *I am crucified with Chriſt Neverthelesſe I live, yet not I, but Chriſt liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the fleſh, I live by the faith of the Sonne of God, who loved mee, and gave himſelfe for mee.*

The Fourth Duty.

Performe daily duties both in Family and Closet, especially these three, of prayer, meditation, and reading; and doe them with sincere intention, with heat of affection, and with diligence and delight. Jer. 48. 10. *Cursed bee hee that doth the worke of the Lord deceitfully, or negligently.* Mal. 1. 14. *But cursed be the deceiver which hath in his flock a male, and voweth and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the Lord of Hosts, and my name is dreadfull among the heathen.* 1 Chro. 21. 24. *And King David said to Ornan, Nay, but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.*

To this end,

FIrst, watch to these duties, keep the heart in a good frame for them, undefiled with sinne, untainted by the world. Ephes. 6 18. *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance*

ſeverance and ſupplication for all Saints.

Secondly, take the fitteſt time for the performance of them all, when you are leaſt dull and ſluggiſh, begin the day conſtantly with thoughts of God. *Pſal.* 57.7, 8, 9. *My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed, I will ſing and give praiſe: awake up my glory, awake* Pſaltery *and harpe; I my ſelfe will awake early, I will praiſe thee O Lord.*

Thirdly, be very reall, ſerious, and ſubſtantiall with God in them, indeavour to feel all duties at your heart, inliving, inlarging, inflaming your affections. *Deut.* 4. 29. *Thou ſhalt finde the Lord thy God if thou ſeek him with all thy heart and with all thy ſoule, Chap.* 6. *v.* 5. *Thou ſhalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy ſoule, and with all thy might,* Pſalme 119. 32. *I will run the way of thy Commandements when thou ſhalt inlarge my heart.* Theſe be the duties of moſt importance and conſequent commoditie and comfort to the ſoule, becauſe they properly aim at, and reach to the ſoules good, and celeſtiall happineſſe, yea even to the training up of a ſoule for heaven.

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The fifth Duty.

Fortifie your ſelves every morning againſt your ſpeciall luſts, to which by nature you are moſt prone, or ſhall be moſt tempted; be it pride, paſſion, covetouſneſſe, or the like.

This is done,

FIrſt, by holy Arguments and reaſonings within your ſelves, drawn from the ſad effects thereof, as diſprofit, diſcomfort, diſgrace, or the like; this will diſcover the unreaſonableneſſe of your ſins, and make your ſouls aſhamed of them. For example, ſhall I be proud? then I ſhall be ſure to fall, for pride goeth before deſtruction, and a haughty ſpirit before a fall, *Prov.* 16. 18. and God will account me for his enemy, for God reſiſteth the proud, *Iam.* 4. 6. Shall I be angry? if I let paſſion in, I cannot keep Satan out, *Epheſ.* 4. 26, 27. *Be angry, but ſinne not; let not the Sunne goe downe upon your wrath.* 27. *Neither give place unto the Devill.* Againe, I ſhall grieve the holy Spirit of God, *Verſe* 30, 31. *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God whereby yee*

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are ſealed to the day of redemption. 31. *Let all bitterneſſe, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evill ſpeaking be put away from you, with all malice.* Shall I bee covetous? I cannot but bee very ſinfull, ſith the love of money is the roote of all evill; 1 *Tim.* 6, 10.

Secondly, by pondering in your minde upon the precepts in Gods book againſt your ſinne, *Prov.* 6. 23, 24. *For the Commandement is a lampe, and the Law is light: and reproofes of inſtruction are the way of life: To keepe thee from the evill woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a ſtrange woman.* And on the judgements threatned or inflicted for them; as on proud *Herod*, *Acts* 12. 23. voluptuous *Dives*, *Luk.* 16. 23. churliſh *Nabal*, 1 *Sam.* 25. 38.

Thirdly, by applying the promiſes of mortification cloſe to your hearts, as a plaiſter to the ſore, for ſubduing your iniquities, *Micah*, 7. 19. *He will turne againe, hee will have compaſſion upon us: hee will ſubdue our iniquities, and thou wilt caſt all their ſinnes into the depth of the Sea*, *Rom.* 6. 14. *For ſinne ſhall not have dominion over you, for yee are not under the Law but under grace.*

Fourthly,

Fourthly, by drawing vertue from Chriſts death into the ſoule, which hath in it a force of killing ſinne, *Rom.* 6. 4, 5, 6. *Therefore we are buried with him by Baptiſme into death, that like as Chriſt was raiſed up from the dead by the glory of the Father: even ſo we alſo ſhould walke in newneſſe of life.* 5 *For if we have been planted together in the likeneſſe of his death, wee ſhall bee alſo in the likeneſſe of his reſurrection.* 6 *Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of ſinne might be deſtroyed, that henceforth we ſhould not ſerve ſinne.* Phil. 3. 10. *That I may know him, and the power of his reſurrection, and the fellowſhip of his ſuffering, being made conformable unto his death.*

Duiie 6.

Get your hearts ſtrongly fixed on God by truſting in him, and ſubmitting to him, againſt all feares, cares, doubts, trialls, and afflictions of every day, for ſufficient to the day is the evill thereof. *Pſal.* 112.7. *Hee ſhall not bee afraid of evill tydings, his heart is fixed, truſting in the Lord.* 2 *Sam.* 15, 26 *But if he thus ſay, I have no delight in thee, behold here I am, let him doe to me as ſeemeth good unto him.* 1 *Sam.* 3. 18. *It is the Lord, let him doe what ſeemeth him good. Mat.* 6.34. *Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow ſhall take thought for the things of it ſelfe: ſufficient unto the day is the evill thereof.*

To this end,

Firſt, be prudent to fore-ſee your perſonall tryalls and troubles, whatſoever they are like to bee, *Prov.* 22.3. *A prudent man fore-ſees the evill, and hideth himſelfe, but the ſimple paſſe on and are puniſhed.*

2 Goe hide, and lay up your ſelfe in God, run unto his name, for God is a rocke of habitation, to which a poore

ſoule may continually reſort, yea God will give commandement to ſave all ſuch as thus doe come unto him, *Pſal.*71.3. *Thou haſt given commandement to ſave me, thou art my rock and my fortreſſe.* 1 *Pet.* 4.19. *Wherefore let them that ſuffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their ſoules to him in well-doing, as unto a faithfull Creator.*

3. Eſpecially commit that very thing to God, whatſoever you deſire to keep, or feare to loſe, put it into his hands, 2 *Tim.* 1. 12. *I know whom I have beleeved, and I am perſwaded hee is able to keep that which* I *have committed unto him againſt that day*: be it *life, liberty, name, friends, maintenance,* &c. What you would have reſolved, if it bee a doubt, *Pſal.* 37. 5. *Commit thy way unto the Lord, truſt alſo in him, and hee ſhall bring it to paſſe.* Or ſupplyed, if it be a want, *Pſal.* 37. 4. *Delight thy ſelfe alſo in the Lord, and he ſhall give thee the deſire of thy heart.* Or removed, if it be a croſſe, *Prov.* 16. 7. *When a mans waies pleaſe the Lord, hee maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.* And together with the thing, caſt all your care, feare, ſorrow, and trouble of mind

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about it, wholly on the Lord, *Matth.* 6.31. *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or wherewith shall wee be clothed?* Vers.33. *But seeke yee first the Kingdome of God, and his righteousnesse, and all these things shall be added unto you.* 1 *Pet.* 5.7. *Casting all your care upon him, for hee careth for you. Psal.* 55. 22. *Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustaine thee, he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*

Fourthly, Renew your faith in those promises every day, which most concerne your present estate; and in promises, first, of supplies, if you be in want, Psal. 34. 8. *O taste and see, that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Psal.* 37. 3. *Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the Land, and verily thou shalt be fed.* And 84. 11. *For the Lord God is a Sunne and a shield, the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will hee withhold from them that walke uprightly. Mat.* 6. 30. *Wherefore if God so cloth the grasse of the field, which is to day, and to morrow is cast into the Oven, shall he not much more cloth you, O yee of little faith?*

2 Of protection, if you bee in dan-

ger, *Psal.* 34. 7. *The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that feare him, and delivereth them.* 3 Of direction, if in doubt, *Jam.* 1. 5. *If any of you lack wisdome, let him aske of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall bee given him.* 4 Of deliverance, if in trouble, *Job* 5. 19. *He shall deliver thee in six troubles, yea in seaven, there shall no evill touch thee.* 5 Of a good end, and sanctified use of all. *Deut.* 8. 16. *Who fed thee in the wilderneſſe with Manna, which thy Fathers knew not, that hee might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to doe thee good at thy latter end. Iam.* 5. 11. *Behold, we account them happy which endure: ye have heard of the Patience of* Job, *and have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is very pitifull, and of tender mercy. Rom.* 8. 28. *And wee know that all things worke together for good to them that love God: to them who are called according to his purpoſe. Heb.* 12. 10. *For they verily for a few daies chaſtened us after their owne pleaſure; but he for our profit, that wee might be partakers of his holineſſe.*

Fifthly, Labour to ſee Gods hand, *Pſal.* 39. 9. *I was dumbe, I opened not my mouth, becauſe thou didſt it.* To beleeve his

his love. *Heb.* 12. 6. *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom hee receiveth. Rev.* 3. 19. *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, bee zealous therefore and repent.* And with all meeknesse, and patience resigne up your selves wholly to his wil in every affliction. *Mat.*26.39 *O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup passe from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

Dutie 7.

Get and keepe a savory relish continually of your Christian priviledges, wherewith you are invested as you are new creatures in Christ.

As, first, of your dignity, that you are the sons of God. 1 *Ioh.* 3. 1, 2. *Behold! what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Beloved, now we are the sonnes of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shal be; but we know that when he shal appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as hee is.* 2. Christs brethren. *Heb.* 2. 11. *He is not ashamed to call them brethren*: but saith, *Joh.* 20. 17. *Goe to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your*

Father, and to my God and your God. 3. Heavens heires, *James* 2. 5. *Hearken my beloved Brethren, hath not God chosen the poore of this world rich in Faith, and heires of the Kingdome which hee hath promised to them that love him?* 4. Partakers of a high, and heavenly calling, *Heb.* 3. 1.

2. Of your *Liberty*, that you are the Lords freemen. 1 *Cor.* 7. 22. *For he that is called of the Lord being a servant, is the Lords freeman.* Delivered out of the hands of all your enemies. 2 *King.* 17. 39. *But the Lord your God shall yee feare; and he shall deliver you out of the hands of your enemies.*

Thirdly, of your victory, that you are through *Christ* more then conquerors over all the world of Creatures, 1 *Joh.* 5. 4. *For whatsoever is borne of God, overcommeth the world, and this is the Victory overcommeth the world, even our Faith.* Rom. 8. 15. *For yee have not received the Spirit of bondage againe to feare; but yee have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* Vers. 16. *The Spirit it selfe bearing witnesse with our Spirits that we are the children of God.* Verse 17. *And if children, then heires, heires of God, joint heires with Christ; if*

so

ſo be that we ſuffer with him, that wee may be alſo glorified together.

Fourthly, of your *Safety*, that you have almighty God, 1. For your place of refuge, *Pſal.* 48. 2. *God is knowne in her palaces, (in* Zion) *for a refuge.* 2. For a hedge of providence, *Job.* 1. 10. *Haſt thou not made an hedge about him, and about his houſe, and about all that hee hath?* 3. For a Gard of angels, *Pſal.* 91. 11. *For he ſhall give his Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy wayes.* 4. An incloſure of mercy, *Pſal.* 32. 10. *Many ſorrowes ſhall bee to the wicked, but hee that truſteth in the Lord, mercy ſhall compaſſe him; for the promiſes of God are a writ of protection for your defence,* *Heb.* 13. 5, 6. *Let your converſation bee without covetouſneſſe, and bee content with ſuch things as yee have; for he hath ſaid, I will never leave thee, nor forſake thee.* Verſ. 6. *So that wee may boldly ſay, The Lord is my helpe, and I will not feare what man ſhall doe unto me.*

Fifthly, of your *Riches*, and durable ſubſtance in heaven, *Heb.* 10. 34. *For yee had compaſſion of me in my bonds, and tooke joyfully the ſpoyling of your goods, knowing in your ſelves that you have in heaven a better and induring ſubſtance*: al-

so an incorruptible inheritance, 1 *Pet.* 1. 4. *To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you &c.* A kingdome of glory, and a crowne of life; for you are heires of God, & co-heires with Christ.

Sixthly, of your *joy* and *pleasure*, precious for kind, and plentifull for measure, *Psal.* 16. 11. *Thou wilt shew mee the path of life, in thy presence is fulnesse of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for ever more.* Peace unconceivable. *Phil.* 4. 7. *And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keepe your hearts and mindes through Christ Jesus.* Joy unspeakable, 1 *Pet.* 1. 8. *Whom having not seen, yee love, in whom, though now yee see him not, yet beleeving, yee rejoyce with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. The Masters joy.*

Get your hearts affected with all these as being yours. Chew, and suck them by serious Meditation, worke, and warme them on your hearts by close application, rubbing them into your affections. Oppose these your spirituall priviledges to all your temporall pressures, setting the one against the other; as your heavenly friends to your earthly

earthly foes, your high dignity in *Christ* to your low estate and meanness in outward condition, your wealth above to your want below, your future joyes and rest to your present troubles and sorrowes. This will make you not onely patient under the afflictions of this life, *Rom.* 12. 12. *Rejoycing in hope, patient in tribulation continuing in prayer*; but also joyfull in them, as *Rom.* 5. 3. *And not onely so, but glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience*; and triumphant over them, as 1 *Cor.* 15. 55. *O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy Victory?* Thus did the Apostles, *Rom.* 8. 18. *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time, are not worthy to bee compared with the glory which shall bee revealed in us.* 2 *Cor.* 4. 17. *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a farre more exceeding and eternall weight of glory.* Vers. 18. *While wee looke not at the things which are seene, but at the things which are not seene; for the things which are seene are temporall; but the things which are not seene are eternall.* So Chap. 6. vers. 8, 9, 10. *By honour, and dishonour, by evill report, and good report, as deceivers*

vers, and yet true, Verse 9. *As unknowne, and yet well knowne; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and not killed.* Vers. 10. *As sorrowfull, yet alway rejoycing; as poore, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

These will provoke to duties, 1 *Pet.* 2. 9. *You are a chosen generation, a royall Priesthood, a holy Nation, a peculiar people, that you should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkenesse into his marvailous light.* Vers. 11. *I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which warre against the soule.* Vers. 12. *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that whereas they speak against you, as evill doers; they may by your good workes which they shall behold, glorifie God in the day of their visitation.* And preserve you, 1. From fainting, 2 *Cor.* 4. 16, 17. *For which cause wee faint not, but though our outward man perish; yet the inward man is renewed day by day.* And 2. From trouble of heart, *John* 14. 1. *Let not your heart be troubled, ye beleeve in God, beleeve also in mee.* Vers. 2. *In my Fathers house are many Mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; I*

goe

gne to prepare a place for you.

Dutie 8.

Sanctifie the Lord in your hearts daily, 1 *Pet.* 1. 15. *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be yee holy in all manner of conversation.* Make him your feare, *Isaiah* 8. 13. *Sanctifie the Lord of Hosts himselfe; and let him be your feare, and let him be your dread.* Your love, and delight, as *Psal.* 37. 4. *Delight thy self also in the Lord, and hee shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

To this end,

First, have often high and honourable thoughts of God, serious meditations of his glorious Attibutes, as his wisdome, power, truth, mercy, justice, &c. and worke them upon your hearts, that they may Eccho to them with pure, and melting affections. This will increase and nourish up the divine nature in you, 2 *Pet.* 1. 4. *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these you might be partakers of the divine Nature.*

Secondly, labour to be affected with all the workes of God, as first to behold, and

and admire the wisdome of God in the creatures, *Psal.* 136. 5. *To him that by wisedome made the Heavens; for his mercy endureth for ever.* 2 To see, and taste Gods goodnesse in every mercy, *Psal.* 34. 8. *O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* 3. To take notice of, and to tremble at the anger, and displeasure of God in all his Judgements, *Psal.* 119. 120. *My flesh trembleth for feare of thee, and I am afraid of thy Judgements. Habb.* 3. 16. *When I heard, my belly trembled, my lips quivered at thy voice, rottennesse entred into my bones, and I trembled in my selfe, that I might rest in the the day of trouble.* 4 That you may answer the dispensations of Gods providence with sutable dispositions; let your hearts carry a counterpane in affection to all Gods actions, *Isay* 26. 8. *Yea, in the way of thy Judgements have we waited for thee, the desire of our soule is to thy Name, and to the remembrance of thee.*

Thirdly, wrestle with God by praying, and beleeving, for an heart of flesh, which will receive impressions from the very thought of God in the mind,

Ezek.

Ezek. 36. 26. *A new heart alſo will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the ſtony heart out of your fleſh, and I will give you an heart of fleſh.*

Fourthly, apply promiſes of particular affections: as firſt of love, *Deut.* 30. 6. *And the Lord thy God will circumciſe thine heart, and the heart of thy ſeed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy ſoule, that thou mayeſt live.* 2. Of feare, Ier. 32. 40. *And I will make an everlaſting Covenant with them, that I will not turne away from them to doe them good; but I will put my feare in their hearts, that they ſhall not depart from mee.* 3. Of delight, *Eſa.* 58. 13, 14. Verſ. 13. *If thou wilt turne away thy feet from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleaſure on my holy day, &c.* Verſ. 14. *Then ſhalt thou delight thy ſelfe in the Lord, and I will cauſe thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Iacob thy Father, for the mouth of the Land hath ſpoken it.* There is heat, and life in theſe promiſes, ſufficient to quicken and warm thy dead and frozen affections.

Dutie 9.

Get a Publike ſpirit, firſt, to minde the things of Jeſus Chriſt, as naturally as if they were your owne, *Phil.*2.20. *For I have no man like minded, who will naturally care for your eſtate.* Verſe 21. *For all ſeeke their owne, not the things which are Ieſus Chriſts.* Secondly, to looke on the things of others, and preferre, firſt, Jeruſalems welfare before your chiefeſt joy, *Pſal.*137. 5, 6. *If I forget thee O* Jeruſalem, *let my right hand forget her cunning.* Verſ. 6. *If I doe not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not* Jeruſalem *above my chiefeſt joy.* And ſecondly the Goſpels liberty before your owne, as *Paul* did: and thirdly, to mourne for the ſins of the times, as the Godly in Jeruſalem did, *Ezek.*9.4. *And the Lord ſaid unto him, Goe through the midſt of the City, through the midſt of* Jeruſalem; *and ſet a marke upon the foreheads of the men that ſigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midſt thereof.*

Eſpecially lay to heart,

Firſt, the Churches miſery, when *Gods* Ordi-

Ordinances goe downe, and ſuperſtition goeth up, when Gods cauſe and ſide are put to the worſt, when any thing falls out, that gives a blow to Religion, or proves an impediment to the Goſpell. *If the Arke be taken, call your comforts Ichabods,* 1 *Sam.* 4. 21.

2. The afflictions of *Joſeph*, *Amos* 6. 6. *That drinke wine in bowles, and anneint themſelves with the chiefe ointment; but they are not grieved for the affliction of* Joſeph: the ſufferings of Gods ſervants, whether Miniſters or people. O ſympathize with them, *Heb.* 13. 3. *Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which ſuffer adverſity, as being your ſelves alſo in the body. Neh.* 1. 4. *And it came to paſſe, when I heard theſe words, that I ſate downe and wept, and mourned certain daies; and faſted and prayed before the God of Heaven*: Labour to feele their trouble and ſorrow at your very heart; and pray earneſtly for them, as the Church did for Peter, *Act.* 12. 5. Peter *therefore was kept in priſon, but prayer was made without ceaſing of the Church to God for him.*

Thirdly, the ſignes of the times, which hypocrites cannot diſcerne, (though

(though they be well versed in the face of the Skie) to wit, the sad symptomes, and presages of approaching Judgements: as, First, the commonnesse of sin; for all sorts transgresse in all kinds of open sinfulnesse with a high hand against the light of nature, and the meanes of grace, Ezek. 12. 3. *Sonne of Man prepare thee stuffe for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place unto another place in their sight; it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house.*

2. Contempt of Gods Ordinances, misusing of his Ministers, 2 *Chron.* 36. 16. *But they mocked the Messengers of God, and despised his words, and mis-used his Prophets; untill the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*

3. Departure of Gods glory from his house, *Ezek.* 9. 3. *And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the Cherub whereupon he was &c.*

Incorrigiblenesse after former, and under present judgements, *Lev.* 26. from ver. 14, 15, 16. *But if ye will not hearken unto mee, and will not doe all these commandements, and if ye shall despise my Statutes,*

or if your ſoule abhorre my judgments; ſo that ye will not doe all my commandements, but that yee breake my covenants: I alſo will doe this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, conſumption and the burning ague; that ſhall conſume the eyes, and cauſe ſorrow of heart: and you ſhall ſow your ſeed in vaine, for your enemies ſhall eate it: and ſo on to the end of the chapter.

5. The death of many righteous men and the carrying away of others to hiding places, *Iſaiah* 57. 1. *The righteous periſheth, and no man layes it to heart, and mercifull men are taken away; none conſidering that the righteous is taken away from the evill to come.*

6. The Vials of Gods wrath powred on the Churches beyond the Seas, Ier. 7. 12. *But goe ye now unto my place which is in Shiloh, where I ſet my Name at the firſt, and ſee what I have done unto it, for the wickednesſe of my people* Iſrael.

7. The inundation of ſpirituall judgements, as a ſpirit of errour, ſuperſtition, apoſtaſie, &c. which doe commonly end in temporall plagues, *Iſa.* 6. 10, 11. *Make the heart of this people fat, and make their eares heavy, and ſhut their*

eyes: leſt they ſee with their eyes, and hear with their eares, and underſtand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Verſ. 11. *Then ſaid I,* Lord *how long? and hee anſwered, Until the Cities be waſted, without inhabitant, and the houſes without men, and the Land be utterly deſolate.*

Now the Holy Ghoſt is a publike ſpirit breathing and acting in all the members of the myſticall body of Chriſt: pray for it. *Luke* 11. 13. *If yee then, being evill, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more ſhall your heavenly Father give the holy Ghoſt unto them that ask him?* beleeve for it, *Gal.* 3. 14. *That the bleſſing of Abraham may come on the Gentiles through Ieſus Chriſt; that we might receive the promiſe of the ſpirit through faith,* Ezek. 36. 37. *I will yet for this be enquired of by the houſe of Iſrael, to doe it for them; I will increaſe them with men like a flock.*

Duty 10.

Get your heart dayly weaned from the world, and from thoſe creatures and comforts in it, which are deareſt and ſweeteſt to you. As wife, children, friends, goods, liberty, houſe, life. This Chriſt requires of thoſe that follow him;

him; *Luke* 14.26,27. *If any man come to mee, and hate not his father and mother, and wife and children, and brethren, and sisters; yea, and his owne life also, he cannot be my disciple.* 27. *And whosoever doth not bear his crosse and come after me, cannot bee my Disciple. Marke* 10. 29,30. *Verily, I say unto you, there is no man hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the Gospels; but he shall receive an hundred fold now in this time, houses and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands with persecutions, and in the world to come eternall life.* This will prepare you either to suffer, or to die when God cals you to it. To this end consider seriously;

First, that these things cannot satisfie your heart, when you have enjoyed them to the full, *Eccles.* 4. 8. *There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, hee hath neither child nor brother; yet is there no end of all his labour, neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith hee for whom doe I labour, and bereave my Soule of good? this is also vanity, yea, it it is a sore travell,* and Chap. 5. 10. *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with sil-*

ver; nor hee that loveth abundance with encreaſe: this is alſo vanity: you ſoone grow weary of them, or glutted with them, ſo that you deſire ſome new delights, or more of the old, or ſome over againe.

Secondly, nor can they ſanctifie you, but will expoſe you oft to many luſts, temptations, diſtractions, yea to a ſpirit of the world, and they will hinder you from following of Chriſt, 1 *Tim.* 6. 9. 10. *But they that will be rich, fall into temptation and a ſnare, and into many fooliſh and hurtfull luſts, which drown men in deſtruction and perdition.* 10. *For the love of money is the root of all evill; which whilſt ſome coveted after, they have erred from the Faith, and pierced themſelves thorow with many ſorrowes.* *Mat.* 19. 21, 22. *Jeſus ſaid unto the young man, If thou wilt be perfect, goe and ſell that thou haſt, and give to the poore, and thou ſhalt have treaſure in heaven; and come and follow mee.* 22. *But when the young Man heard that ſaying hee went away ſorrowfull, for hee had great poſſeſſions.*

Thirdly, nor can they ſave you from Gods wrath, from death and judgement. *Prov.* 11. 4. *Riches profit not in the*

day

day of wrath; but righteouſneſſe delivereth from death.

Fourthly, the wicked whoſe portion is onely in this world, have often the greateſt ſhare of them. *Iob.* 21. 7. to the 14 *Wherefore doe the wicked live, become old, yea are mighty in power?* 8. *Their ſeed is eſtabliſhed in their ſight with them, and their off-ſpring before their eyes.* 9. *Their houſes are ſafe from feare, neither is the rod of God upon them.* 10. *Their bull gendreth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and caſteth not her calfe.* 11. *They ſend forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.* 12. *They take the timbrell and harpe, and rejoyce at the ſound of the organ.* 13. *They ſpend their dayes in wealth, and in a moment goe downe to the grave.*

Fifthly, they ſerve onely in this life, while we are on this ſide of the grave, they ſhall not bee the leaſt Ingredients into our celeſtiall happineſſe. When wee come to be happy in heaven, wee ſhall ſtand in no need of food, rayment, phyſicke, marriage, &c. *Matth.* 22. 30. *For in the reſurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the Angels of God in heaven.* We ſhall hunger no more, neither thirſt any more, *Rev.*

7. 16. *They ſhall hunger no more, neither thirſt any more, neither ſhall the ſun light on them, nor any heat.* We ſhall live by the alſufficient Spirit of God, which never needs refreſhing; wee ſhall be clothed with long white robes of immortality, *Rev. 9. After this I beheld, and loe, a great multitude, which no man could number of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues ſtood before the throne, and before the Lambe, clothed with white robes, and palmes in their hands*; In a word, when wee come to heaven the place of Gods Habitation, wee ſhall enjoy the face, and beatificall preſence of the moſt glorious Jehovah, bleſſed for ever, as an object, wherein all the powers of our ſoules will be ſatisfied with ineffable delight; and God will be unto us everlaſtingly all in all, 1 *Cor.* 15. 28. *And when all things ſhall be ſubdued unto him, then ſhall the Son alſo himſelfe be ſubject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*

FINIS.